

Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 26 | Min 13 | Humidity 58%

Mainly clear sky. Misty morning

Sensex 55,822

Nifty 16,614

Gold 48,280

Silver 61,400

Dollar 75.82

Euro 85.67

GBP 100.23

'30 LAKH COVID CASES BY JAN 10'



PAGE 2

ACCIDENT PRONE? NOT ANY MORE



PAGE 3

FOR SMALL BIZ, THESE ARE HARD TIMES



PAGE 4

In this day and age, untreated sewage entering a lake in the heart of the city is appalling and embarrassing, say citizens

BLOW WITH THE FLOW

No aquatic birds 'seen' in vicinity

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

In 2009, Kaikondrahalli Lake underwent rejuvenation. Thereafter, the waterbody was well kept and taken care of up to 2016. But then again the state of the lake started deteriorating with sewage water flowing in.

The residents pointed out that they see frothing of the lake's waters almost every other day. Especially in the past few days the frothing has increased, they said.

For the residents of Kaikondrahalli, seeing foam flowing down the 48-acre waterbody located on Sarjapur Road is a daily fixture now.

"We're disappointed to see a lake that once nurtured many fruiting trees in its buffer, was home to many aquatic birds and an abode of freshwater now falling into ruin," one of the residents said.

Rapid urbanisation in the area is a primary factor adding to the sudden depletion of the lake. The area surrounding the lake has seen a marked rise in real estate development, apartment blocks, IT companies, shopping malls and slums.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>



There are no UGD lines in the locality; 90% sewage water from nearby areas flows into the lake.

— Shilpi Sahu, MAPSAS

Life in a Metro

KSRTC requests BMRCL to set up a metro station to save ailing bus stand



Melvin Mathew
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The Basaveshwara bus station near Peenya wears an almost-deserted look even during peak hours on an average day. That said, the station may receive one last shot at revival, BM has found out.

The Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) has requested the Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited to set up a metro station near the bus stand to increase ridership.

The bus stand was constructed in 2014 at the cost of Rs 40 crore to draw traffic to the Tumakuru Road that links 20 districts in Karnataka.

However, even after seven years, the KSRTC has been unable to generate ridership through this particular bus stand.

In a new attempt at revival, the KSRTC is looking at constructing a metro station close to the bus stand.

"We had a couple of meetings with the BMRCL. The previous managing director had agreed to extend another metro station to the bus station. This would be an 800-m extension. We also visited the spot along with BMTC and BMRCL managing directors, about six months ago. Once the metro rail gets an extension, there will be an increase in ridership," said KSRTC managing director Shivayogi C Kalasad.

Kalasad added that to generate revenue, the KSRTC is planning to lease the free space to commercial entities: "The current

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 >>

3 THINGS TO DO

01 All for the paws

In the spirit of Christmas, Heads Up For Tails is inviting people to donate their pet's pre-loved items/buy new products at our stores to donate at discounted prices. Collect all your pet's pre-loved items that are in good condition and drop them off at your nearest HUFT store. The pre-loved items/new products bought at the stores will further be passed on to Charlies Animal Rescue Centre to help the furry friends in need. So, open your hearts and your pet's closet to our furry friends in need. **Where:** All HUFT stores in Bangalore. **When:** Till December 31



02 Pottery therapy

Channel the inner artist in you by signing up for these pottery-making workshops. You will be taught how to prepare the clay and use different techniques like hand-building, pinch, coil, and slab. Finally, you will be taught to fire the pots. **Where:** Lahe Lahe, Indiranagar **When:** Till Dec 26, multiple slots **Tickets:** 9886294444



03 Festive shopping

Check out New Crafts's Silk India 2021, an exhibition which brings together rural weavers from different parts of India featuring vast collections of handlooms, dress materials, West Bengal cotton sarees and many more. Find silver jewellery, kundan and meenakari, textiles, handmade paper, precious and semi-precious stones, paintings, leatherwork, hand-crafted items like wood, ivory, lac, glass, brass, silver and gold and much more. **Where:** Sindhoor convention centre, JP Nagar 1st Phase; **When:** Till Dec 26 **Call:** 8850902824

State may hit 30 lakh covid cases by Jan 10

Karnataka Health Department on high alert with Omicron cases increasing; private hospitals to ramp up Covid-19 facilities and inoculation drives

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The state's overall covid cases may reach 30,08,600 by January 10 according to a latest projection by Jeevan Raksha, which analyses the Covid trends across the country. Currently, the total Covid cases are at 29,57,256 as of Monday.

The projection also states that cumulative deaths may touch 38,350 (38,290 deaths have been reported so far) by January 10. However, the projection is based on the current set of cases which are largely driven by the Delta variant in the country. Many experts predict a third wave in January and February which could be driven by the contagious Omicron variant slowly making its way into the state.

Sanjeev Mysore, convenor of Jeevan Raksha said: "Amid concerns over Omicron, India's covid situation is likely to improve though there should be no room for complacency; robust surveillance is key. Overall, India is expected to officially report around 0.22 million new covid cases, and 2,300 new covid deaths."

"One of the major concerns is the under-reporting of cases which was relatively higher in November when compared with the two months before that. In November, the estimated number of under-reported Covid cases in India was more than 2 lakh and deaths were around 5,200."



A health worker conducts surveys among public transport workers and citizens

Covid-19 test mandatory for SARI, ILI patients admitted to the OPD

All the Severe Acute Respiratory Infections (SARI) and Influenza-like illness (ILI) patients getting admitted to the OPD in private hospitals in BBMP limits must be tested for covid-19 and other patients too could be advised to undergo the same if needed, said Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Special Commissioner Dr Trilok Chandra. Addressing a meeting with Private Hospitals and Nursing Homes' Association (PHANA)

and more than 100 private hospitals, he said that precautionary measures should be taken to prevent the spreading of covid-19 in the city. Second doses should be given at private hospitals for the people if they have been taking the first dose. Double doses should be ensured for all individuals who visit the hospital. According to the government order, as a precautionary measure, private hospitals must be ready to reserve beds

5 new Omicron cases

Five more Omicron cases were reported from the state on Monday. Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar said that the new cases were reported from Dharwad, Bhadravathi, Udupi and Mangaluru. Even though the new patients were stable, the Health Department is on high alert as the new variant has been found among hostel students despite having no travel history. So far, 49 samples have been sent for genome sequencing tests and their reports are awaited.

Overall, India is expected to officially report around 0.22 million new covid cases, and 2,300 new covid deaths — Sanjeev Mysore

Belagavi turns into a fortress

Activists to lay siege to Suvarna Vidhana Soudha; 3,000 cops deputed to maintain order

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Security across Belagavi has been tightened in the wake of Kannada organisations announcing laying siege to the Suvarna Vidhana Soudha on Monday despite prohibitory orders. As many as 3,000 police personnel have been deputed to maintain law and order. Thousands of Kannada activists have been arriving at Belagavi to stage a protest against the State Government's apathy towards

protecting the interests of Kannadigas, President of Karnataka Rakshana Vedike, Narayana Gowda, said. "No matter what, we are going ahead with our plan of laying siege to Suvarna Soudha," he added.

"The government has not taken any action against the Maharashtra Ekarana Samithi (MES) members who attacked the police but now, it is initiating action against us for condemning atrocities on Kannadigas," he alleged.

Decisive action

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Monday said 'decisive action'



Police stand guard in front of Krantiveera Sangolli Rayanna statue

would be taken against miscreants who disturb law and order in the state.

"We will initiate stringent ac-

tion against those disturbing law and order in the state," Bommai told reporters. (with inputs from agencies)

Accident prone? Not any more

BBMP says it has finished 90% of rectification work and fixed 23 of 24 roads in its purview



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The Traffic Engineering Cell under the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) that has been working with the traffic police for rectification of 29 identified black spots (accident-prone areas) in the city, say they have fixed 90 per cent of the roads. High-rise pedestrian crossings, high-rise grills and rumbling strips have been installed at such spots.

Executive engineer of TEC, Praveen Lingaiah told Bangalore Mirror, "Only a few small corrections are remaining. The work will be completed in a week or two. Most of the painting work was completed before the rains and tenders have been called for reflectors, cat eyes and other equipment. The remaining black spots have already been fixed."

The city traffic police had earlier identified 29 black spots in the BBMP limits where there were more number of accident cases due to various unsatisfactory errors that the BBMP had to rectify.

Though the data was shared long ago, the work was delayed due to the pandemic and the lockdowns. However, in the last five months, the TEC has fixed 23 black spots in the BBMP limits and has cancelled five spots as they come under the National Highway jurisdiction. The authorities concerned have been informed to take up the work in those spots. Only one black spot under BBMP is yet to be attended to.

Mohammed Khalandar Khan, Certified Road Safety Au-

ditor, TEC, said that the team has been working for four to five months to complete the project and it is the corporation's initiative to reduce accidents, jointly carried out with Bangalore Traffic Police. He said, "Most of these black spots are created due to speeding of vehicles and we installed High Raised Pedestrian Cross in required junctions and rumble strips for speed breakers."

A major black spot identified in the city was on the Ring Road in Babusapalya where about 25-30 pedestrians were killed due to jaywalking in the last three years. Pedestrians were often found jumping road medians to cross the road and despite there being a skywalk, people still choose to run across the road where vehicles are at high speed. Just two months ago, three senior citizens were killed while crossing the road and now we have put up high raised grills for over a 1.5 kilometre stretch to prevent them from jaywalking."

He said that in other black spots, unsatisfactory turns and road medians were fixed. A required number of spread breakers were installed at the spots where pedestrians were affected.

A senior traffic police officer said that due to rains, most of the roads are worn out. "This is why we are not able to install reflectors and rumble strips. We are waiting for the BBMP to take up the asphaltting work, following which the rumble strips can be laid and unsatisfactory humps can be removed. The black spots that were fixed have shown good results and we have not seen any accidents so far in these spots," he said.

Cop accused of flashing, misbehaving with woman

A constable attached to the Amruthahalli police station allegedly flashed in front of a woman and misbehaved with her on Sunday night in Yelahanka New Town police station limits. The woman, a resident of Yelahanka New Town, was feeding the strays in the area when the incident took place. She is yet to file a written complaint with the Yelahanka New Town police station.

The incident came to light on

Monday after some people who took a video during the fracas and uploaded it on social media. The woman has narrated her ordeal to the police orally.

She told Bangalore Mirror she was feeding the strays near her house around 10:30 pm when she noticed a man standing next to a tree and staring at her. "When I looked at him, he flashed at me. I raised an alarm and people rushed to my help. The man was very drunk and started to misbehave with me." She

said she did not have her phone so she asked the people to call the police. "The man told me we can't do anything to him as he was a cop. He fought with the people who had gathered too. One of the persons recorded this on his phone. The hoysala staff arrived at the spot and told us that he was a constable with their station," she said. She said she raised the issue with the police Commissioner as she was scared to visit the station.

DCP North East, CK Baba said that the suspect has been identified as Chandrashekar, a Constable attached to the Amruthahalli police station. He said, "We have come across the video and have initiated a disciplinary action against him."

—Pragna L Krupa

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Har Pal Aapke Saath

HARD TIMES

Crumbling under pressure due to loss, loans, MSMEs, small scale industrial associations go on strike, protest against hike in prices of raw materials

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Members of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) and small scale industrial associations across the city participated in a strike and a protest on Monday to oppose the abnormal hike in prices of raw materials. The protestors claimed that since the hike, they have been forced to undergo losses and take loans to avoid getting blacklisted for not completing purchase orders.

"We have been opposing the abnormal hikes for over a year. Industrial associations across the country reached out to state governments and the centre, but in vain. On December 15, 170 MSME industrial associations, across India, held a virtual meeting and decided to strike. On December 16, 134 industrial associations in Karnataka came together for a virtual meeting and decided to go ahead with the strike and demonstrate via a silent protest too. We (the congregation of associations participating in the strike and protest) have given a memorandum to the state government. The protest aims to elicit appropriate action from the government against abnormal hike in prices of raw materials," Shivakumar R, Secretary of Peenya Industries Association, told this reporter on Monday.

In the past year, prices of raw materials have risen by over 100 per cent. The price of steel plates used by industries working with fabrication (cutting, bending, and assembling of steel to create different products) and construction has risen from Rs 45 to Rs 82. The price of copper has increased from Rs 270



A silent strike: Protestors pulled shutters down for a whole day, submitted a memo of demands to the government and took to streets bearing their wants on placards

to Rs 780 per kg; the price of paper too has increased from Rs 20 to Rs 44. Plastic prices have changed from Rs 70 to Rs 140 and aluminium, which used to cost Rs 106, costs Rs 270 now.

MSMEs and small scale industrial associations have come up with five major demands. Their first demand is that the government must immediately reduce the price of raw materials. Their second demand is that the government limit the export of raw materials so that stock is readily available in the Indian markets at lower costs.

"Prices of all raw materials have increased from 55 per cent to 150 per cent. How will micro industries survive, considering that the required working capital has risen by 70 per cent? The pandemic already crippled the industry. But

now, 30 per cent of MSMEs and small scale industries are in a critical state. To regain normalcy, the government must reduce prices immediately. Export of raw material must be stopped so they are available in the Indian market, first. If the supply of materials goes up and becomes greater than the demand, the cost can be reduced in the Indian market," Shivakumar explained.

The third demand is that the government must reduce import duty on raw materials that are being imported from other countries. This will enable consumers in India to avail them at a lower cost.

Their fourth demand is that interest rates for the bank loans taken by MSMEs and small scale industries must be reduced.

"Those working in MSMEs and small scale industries have agreed to deliver purchase orders at a set price to public sector associations, large scale industries and foreign indus-

tries. Since the hike in prices of raw materials, the cost of production has gone up and MSMEs are forced to deliver orders while undergoing losses. Many have taken loans to survive. The interest rate of these loans must be reduced or a large percentage of the industry will go under," Umashanker Samba, president of the Rajajinagar Industries Association, told BM.

The fifth demand is for the recent hike in GST, from 5 to 12 per cent, on a number of raw materials to be reversed.

Apart from these demands, they are also concerned that the rising prices of petrol and diesel are affecting their transportation costs.

Similar protests were also held in Tumakuru, Mysuru, Kolar, Belagavi and other parts of Karnataka too. Roughly, 40 crore people in India are dependent on MSMEs and small scale industries. They provide the largest employment and revenue generation across all sectors.

Warm up folks, city is getting colder this year

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As the temperature in the city continues to lower, it is clear that the onset of winter is here. The dip is expected to last for the next few days and meteorology experts said that they have not noticed anything unusual.

The dip in the minimum temperature is expected to fluctuate for the next few days. "This is usually the case during winter. On Monday,

the minimum temperature dipped in different parts of the city... HAL experienced 13.2 degree Celsius, Bengaluru City experienced 14.8 degree Celsius, KIAL was even colder with 13.3 degree Celsius, and the HAL Airport area was colder still at 13.2 degree Celsius. The sky is clear. An outgoing long-wave radiation from the Earth's surface is also causing the drop in temperature," Geetha Agnihotri, Director of Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) told BM.

Meteorology experts believe the IMD's predictions that the average

temperature will be two to three degrees lower than last year.

"Multiple factors are leading us to this weather condition. Firstly, the clear sky is causing heat to escape from the surface of the Earth. A cloudy sky tends to trap the heat and keep the city warm," an expert explained.

He added that La Nina conditions and dry winds blowing from the north are also contributing to the dip. Eastern-western winds are also blowing in the northern part of the country and this is causing a cold wave, not only in Karnataka but

throughout the country too.

According to IMD, cold wave to severe cold wave conditions have been observed in some places in East Rajasthan, isolated pockets of West Rajasthan and West Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, and Punjab. A cold wave is also prevailing in some places in Uttar Pradesh, Jammu, Kashmir, Ladakh, Gilgit-Baltistan, Muzaffarabad, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and East Madhya Pradesh, it is said. However, South India seems to be unaffected by the cold wave that is observed in the northern part of the country.

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Can't dust this off

Marathahalli



BWSSB had dug up Spice Garden Road to lay pipes. The civic body never restored it and the stretch is now covered with dust, and debris.

Gutter negligence

Wilson Garden



The gutter on the junction between 8th Cross in Wilson Garden and Siddaiah Road is in a bad condition. Will the authorities fix it?

Bitter litter

Cantonment



A pile of garbage has been accumulating near a mosque on Sultanji Gunta Road. When will litterbugs stop?

Did somebody try to break the wall to get into the park?

That's the question Domlur residents are asking. They want answers as to how the 25-ft wall around the Dr Rajkumar Park collapsed overnight

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For residents of Domlur, the Dr Rajkumar Park is a haven. Many a morning walk or evening stroll was made enjoyable due to this park. Last Sunday, however, a few morning walkers got a shock when they saw that a 25-foot high wall around the park had collapsed. They informed the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) and together with the Palike, went on to file a complaint at the local police station, suspecting that miscreants could have caused the wall collapse.

Many of the residents visit the park on a daily basis, and all, especially the children, are seen having a good time in the evenings. For senior citizens, evening walks in this park are a must. So the wall collapse and the possible involvement of miscreants has left everybody rattled.

After the residents informed the BBMP about this, officials visited the spot. According to the officials, miscreants could have been behind this act. "The wall can't collapse so easily so we suspect some miscreants came in overnight and would have caused the damage. Since the park gates are locked after visiting hours, no one has access to it. The miscreants would have tried to break the wall to enter. We are yet to identify who did it. There are no CCTV cameras around the park to check who the culprits could be," said a BBMP official from BBMP East



KAUSHIK JN



The broken wall at Dr Rajkumar Park in Domlur has been temporarily covered after citizens reported the wall collapse

"We will call out for tenders to appoint security guards. We are in talks with the higher officials. Once it is approved, we shall appoint guards"

—BBMP official

Narayan said.

The BBMP parks team even filed a non cognizable report at the Halasuru police station to look into the issue. "The police are taking a look. Meanwhile we have informed the BBMP engineers to build a wall again and they will start the work soon," the BBMP official said.

After the incident, many residents also are worried about their security. "If this could have been done over night by miscreants, it is definitely a worry for us about our security and privacy. The

BBMP needs to depute security guards to keep a check on the park and even for the safety of walkers," said Ramya Shree, a resident.

The BBMP official pointed out that soon after the incident, the officials also began discussions on deputing two security guards for the protection of parks. "We will call out for tenders to appoint security guards. We are in talks with the higher officials. Once it is approved, we shall appoint guards," he said.

Plaint against cop for 'threatening' dog feeder

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A police inspector's decision to not support a stray dog feeder, when his neighbours ganged up against him, has landed the cop in trouble. A few animal activists lodged a complaint with the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast division, against the police inspector.

Fifty-year-old Praveen (name changed), an IT consultant and a wildlife rescuer, is a resident of an apartment in Electronic City Phase 2 since 2016 and has been feeding stray dogs for a long time. A few residents of his apartment alleged that one of the dogs he feeds had bit two residents and asked him to stop feeding them. But, Praveen continued feeding.

On Sunday, when Praveen and his wife

"A group of residents started knocking on the door loudly, forcefully opened the windows and started filming my daughter crying"

—Victim

were not home, around 10-12 people gathered outside their flat. Meanwhile, their 11-year-old daughter was alone inside the flat. "They started knocking on the door loudly, forcefully opened the windows and even started filming my daughter crying. When she informed me, I was around 15-20 minutes away from home," Praveen said.

He called up the police control room and informed the cops. By the time the police

arrived, the group had left the house. Later, Praveen was summoned to the Hebbagodi police station as a few of his neighbours had filed a complaint against him for feeding stray dogs.

Praveen said, at the station, the police inspector was not ready to listen to his statement. The inspector allegedly threatened him, a few other activists who had gone to the station with him, stating that if another dog bite incident is reported from the residents of the apartment, the police would take a written complaint from the residents and file a case on Praveen and the animal activist. When the activists argued, the officer allegedly addressed them disrespectfully. As the police had summoned Praveen without a non-cognizable complaint, SPCA member KB Harish along with Praveen filed an e-mail complaint to the Deputy Commissioner of Police, Southeast division.



VACCINES DON'T REDUCE IMMUNITY

THE CLAIMS

A few online articles and social media posts claim that covid-19 vaccines compromise the immune systems of recipients, causing a condition called: "vaccine acquired immune deficiency syndrome" or VAIDS. The claim, that has gone viral on social media, is raising panic among people.



SO, WHAT'S THE TRUTH?

Experts have rubbished the claim, stating that vaccines are no threat to the immune system. Various types of vaccines have already been administered to millions of people worldwide and the data show that these vaccines are extremely safe and effective, even in people with pre-existing conditions or weakened immune systems, they say. Doctors and scientists have busted the rumour, saying vaccines are, in fact, increasing the immune system of an individual.

BUST FAKE NEWS WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's separate the news from the noise, Bengaluru. Tell us about that incredible-sounding story/news/alert that you've received on WhatsApp or social media and Bangalore Mirror researchers and editors will see if it checks out. If it doesn't, we'll call it out

TOP COMMENTS

Banks should provide ESCROW service

Commenting on our story -- Woman set out to buy scooter for Rs 27K, ends up losing Rs 88K -- readers have shared their views on how such incidents can be prevented. Anand Kumar says that RBI should make it mandatory for all banks to provide ESCROW service, where the seller deposits the amount with the bank and the bank will release the amount to the seller only on confirmation, if the deal has gone through successfully. Such services can be used even for business transactions, vehicle and property deals etc. Karthik recommends sharing the contact number of the swindler and exposing him. This way, they can't cheat more people.

WEBHITS

3 most-read articles on the Mirror site

Woman set out to buy scooter for Rs 27K, ends up losing Rs 88K

Uneven and odd

500 years of history unearthed, demystified

THE FOAM FACTOR

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

That sewage continues to flow into the lake after all these years is appalling. In spite of the rising number of complaints to the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP), the residents pointed out that nothing substantial has been done for the lake's revival.

According to the residents, the adjoining localities have no underground drainage lines (UGD) set up which has resulted in sewage from the surrounding areas flowing directly into the Kaikondrahalli Lake. Though initially a small diversion was made to divert the waste water, sewage still flows in the lake. The lake is now increasingly smelly and frothy. Many residents are now refraining from visiting the lake.

A group of citizens, however, had banded together to rejuvenate and maintain the lake — forming MAPSAS

(Mahadevapura Parisara Samrakshane Mattu Abhivrudhi Samiti), alongside assistance from the BBMP.

MAPSAS now works together with the BBMP to maintain the Kaikondrahalli Lake. However, with the Palike not intervening to provide a sustainable solution for the sewage diversion, the residents are helpless.

"There are no UGD lines in the locality. All the sewage from nearby places flows freely into the lake. The BBMP is well aware of the issue; however, nothing has been done. Ten years ago, a diversion was created, but that hasn't helped. Volume of sewage is increasing by the day.

Now, the citizens are starting to notice. MAPSAS had signed an MoU with the BBMP — through community engagement, we can contribute money, for the

lake maintenance we can help through gardening and more, but activities which need civic intervention can only be done by the BBMP. We are seeing 90% of sewage from surrounding areas entering into the lake," member of MAPSAS Shilpi Sahu said.

Another resident pointed out that back in April, the residents found many dead fish on the lake surface. "In April we saw many dead fish floating. The poor quality of water is killing the fish. As complaints reach the BBMP, temporary quick fixes are done — putting up cement bags to divert the sewage and such. But, now we need a permanent solution."

Common birds usually spotted in the lake are not seen nowadays, a resident explained: "Earlier, one could spot many species of aquatic birds in the lake. But now we hardly even see them. Many children would visit the lake to watch the birds and spend some time. But now the condition of the lake is really bad. We have little flora and fauna left here. We need to preserve this waterbody with the civic bodies' intervention or we could lose this lake too like the rest of the lakes in the city."

Salvaging Basaveshwara bus stand

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

contractor has expressed desire to withdraw from the agreement. Once the arrears are settled, the space will be opened up for prospective bidders again."

BMRCL managing director Anjum Parwez agreed Namma Metro had made such a commitment to the KSRTC. "There was a proposal made by the KSRTC regarding the extension of the Metro. Surely, the viability has to be assessed. We need to look into all the possibilities before taking a call as this is not on the main route, which would involve a diversion to the depot," Parwez

clarified.

This is not the first attempt at salvaging the bus stand from the brink of abandonment. The station is affected by various factors including its location. As it is located 0.75 km from the main road, riders continue to board from designated spots on the main road due to the inconvenience.

Six months after setting up the bus stand, the KSRTC had to do a U-turn on the decision to shift 60 bus routes from Majestic to the station as it had incurred a loss of Rs 12 crore.

Another proposed plan by the corporation was to cancel the stop at Jalahalli Cross to bring in more ridership. There was also a plan to construct a traveller (a moving walkway) connecting the Peenya metro station with the bus stand.



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I Ambale Srinivas have lost my Original document's situated in onnalvadi (village) (SRO Kelamangalam, Hosur Taluk doc 1025/1993 & 2089/1993 Syl No 876/2, plot No - 43 (Area-1500 sqft) While Travelling in my Own Two wheeler in K.R purum on 1/12/21 (FIR has filed) finder please Contact Ambale Srinivas Res/No. 583/A 1st Cross, 3rd stage 3rd phase Kempagowda layout Katriguppe, Bangalore. ph-8050551194

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I, Ashesh S/o Ajit gupta R/o C210, Mana Karmel Apartment, Near RGA tech Park, Sarjapur Road, Bangalore 560035 have changed my name to Ashesh Gupta for all purposes.

I, Koteppa Pyati S/o Virupaxappa Pyati R/o-87/3 Sunkal Farm 1st Main BTS Road, Wilson Garden, Adugodi B'lore-30 have changed my name to Kotresh Pyati.

I, Shajil Ahmed R/o No.1129, 1st Stage, Madegowda Circle, Rajivnagar Mysuru 570019 have changed my name to SHAJJIL AHAMED affidavit Dt.20/12/2021 notary H.K Karunakara Bengaluru

I, Shadab Jawed Hassan, S/O Jawed Hassan, R/O A 406 Casa Gopalan Borewell Road Near Indian Post Office, Whitefield, Bengaluru, Karnataka 560066 has changed my name to Shadab Hassan for all future purposes.

I, Sneha Sudhakar Garge w/o Yogesh Prakash Mashalkar R/o S-91 HRBR Layout, 3rd Block Kalyan nagar, Bengaluru 560043 have changed my name to SNEHA GARGE affidavit Dt.20/12/2021 Notary Harisha.H B'loru

I Ghanasham Madhulal ,S/o Madhulal Nathuram, R/o, No 1/1, Jaya Kunj, 6th Cross, Vinayaka Nagar, Near Vidyaapeeta Circle, Bengaluru 560050. Have changed my name to Ghanasham Madhulal for All Purposes.

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The software export boom

The industry is flourishing like never before in Karnataka with numbers touching Rs 2 lakh crore for the first time in history



Bengaluru has a lion's share in exports; (above) Bagmane Tech Park is one the city's famed tech parks

Sridhar.Vivan@timesgroup.com

TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

Karnataka continues its domination of being the number one state in the country when it comes to software exports. Though many states are picking up the pace by establishing software parks as well as providing incentives to the IT companies, Karnataka is far ahead of them.

In fact, for the first time in history, software exports from the state (from IT companies registered with the Software Technology Parks of India) has touched Rs 2-lakh-crore mark.

According to Union Minister of State of Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel's statement in Rajya Sabha recently, Karnataka's software exports for this financial year (2020-21) is Rs 2,04,648.96 crore.

If we look at the last five years' trend, software exports have seen a steady growth year after year. In 2016-17, the exports were Rs 1, 41,846 crore; 2017-18-Rs 1, 52,280.16 crore; 2018-19-Rs 1, 69,699.08 crore and Rs 1, 94,473.28 crore in 2019-20.

As three months are remaining in the current financial year, the software exports are likely to record a new high.

An IT expert said, "Looking at the employment or revenue across the sectors, many were badly hit due to the outbreak of covid. However, if we look at the statistics, it is clear that the covid pandemic had little effect on the software exports scenarios."

"As many IT companies were quick to adapt to the work from

home system and later the hybrid model, their work was least affected and has shown a positive trend. They continue to drive the exports in the state."

Another IT expert said, "Bengaluru is aptly called the Silicon Valley of the East. The city has a lion's share in the software exports though a small section of companies are operating in other cities. The figures reinforce Bengaluru's stand as the IT capital of India."

Interestingly, Karnataka is not just the number one state in terms of software exports, but also much ahead in the competition compared to other states. For example, Maharashtra is at a distant second when it comes to software exports as the gap between the two states is more than Rs one lakh crore. Maharashtra's software exports are Rs 99,732.48 crore.

Much is talked about the Bengaluru versus Hyderabad competition in software exports and many times, the neighbouring state claims that it has been able to woo many big ticket companies.

However, with Bengaluru being the prime driver in Karnataka and Hyderabad in Telangana, the

“As many IT companies were quick to adapt to WFH and later the hybrid model, their work was least affected

— An IT expert

Telangana state is third with Rs 71,574.19 crore exports.

Software Technology Parks of India was set up in 1991 as an autonomous society under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. STPI's main objective has been the promotion of software exports from the country.

STPI acts as 'single-window in providing services to the software exporters. The services rendered by STPI for the software exporting community have been statutory services, data communications services, incubation facilities, training and value-added services.

Currently, more than 5,000 units are registered with STPI across India. A total of 60 STPI centres/sub-centres are operational across the country, out of which, 51 centres are in Tier II and Tier III cities.

STPI-Bengaluru, one of the 10 jurisdictions, has four sub-centres located across the State -- at Mysuru, Mangaluru, Manipal and Hubballi. Housed in the Electronic City, a major IT cluster in Bengaluru with presence of 200-plus IT/ITES/ electronics system design & manufacturing (ESDM) companies.

The total exports from the STP units under STPI-Bengaluru has gone from Rs 39 crore in 1993 to Rs 2.04 lakh crore in FY 2020-21.

The Bengaluru story

In 1990, Bengaluru was the first Software Technology Park (STP) of India that was set up along with STPs in Pune and Bhubaneswar, which later merged in June 1991 into a single autonomous society called Software Technology Parks of India.

THE YEAR THAT WAS

A mixed bag for Indian football

SS Shreekumar
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The year 2021 was a mixed bag for Indian football. While Bengaluru FC and India skipper Sunil Chhetri was bestowed with the Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award -- a high point for football -- the pandemic disrupted activities for a major part of the year.

Chhetri, 37, is the leading scorer in India with 80 goals in 125 international appearances. He has been with Bengaluru FC since its beginning in 2013 and has made Bengaluru his second home. But disappointingly, Bengaluru FC have not been doing well in the ongoing ISL having lost three of the five games they have played with one win and a draw in the other two so far. They have a long way ahead in the tournament.

The Covid-19 pandemic resulted in complete stoppage of football activities. The Bangalore District Football Association (BDFA) could not conduct any of its activities till October. They kicked-off with the Super Division League which will be completed by the first week of January 2022. The BDFA is, however, left with the handling of their B and C division leagues apart from other knockout tournaments.

This was also due to the fact that by the time the national body gave the green signal for activities, the football stadium had to be reserved for national level tournaments. The Karnataka State Football Association was allotted the I-League 2nd Division matches. The preliminary and the final rounds were gone through with FC Bengaluru United remaining the only entrants.

But FC Bengaluru United failed to progress and did not enter the four-team final league where the winners were promoted to the I-League. The team had done well to enter the semi-finals of the Durand Cup held in Kolkata but lost to Mohammedan Sporting. Of the three matches that they played in the 4-team group, they won, drew and lost one match each and ended third as only the top two qualified.

As soon as this tournament ended, the South Zone Group B qualifiers of the Santosh Trophy began. Karnataka defeated Tamil Nadu and Telangana easily. But, they had to fight hard to defeat a resilient Andhra team. They managed to do so and headed the group to qualify for the tournament proper to be held in Manjeri, Kerala, in



Bangalore United Football Club in action; Chhetri made India proud in '21

early 2022.

A heartening feature on the local front was the revival of the once-glamorous HAL football team. There were rumours that ITI also has plans to be back from hibernation.

Women's football

On the women's football front, Bangalore United Football Club's women's team won the senior women's football league and crowned themselves with glory. Their captain Tanvi Hans was later selected to lead the Karnataka women's team in the National Women's football championship in Kozhikode.

The Women's Super Division League was organised during April 2021 in which Kickstart Football Club emerged as the champions while Mathru Prathisthana FC took the runner-up spot.

Modern Girls FC won the A Division League with Roots FC being the runners-up. Modern Girls FC also won the 7-a-side football tournament with Pass FC the runners-up.

Krishnaji Rao no more

Mysore's Santosh Trophy winning Captain, Krishnaji Rao breathed his last in August this year. He had led the team to glory in the 1967-68 and 1968-69 editions. Krishnaji Rao led CIL for more than a decade and also represented India in the 1966 Asian Games. He also coached Madura Coats, ITI, HAL and the state teams with distinction.

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Bill to link electoral data with Aadhaar passed amid din

Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021 passed by a voice vote

NATION

#New Delhi

A Bill to link electoral roll data with Aadhaar ecosystem was passed in Lok Sabha on Monday after a brief debate amid continuous protest by opposition members over various issues, including the Lakhimpur Kheri violence.

The Election Laws (Amendment) Bill 2021, piloted by Law Minister Kiren Rijiju, was passed by a voice vote after a brief discussion during which some opposition members demanded that it be referred to a parliamentary panel for scrutiny.

After the Bill's passage, Lok Sabha was adjourned for the day amid continuous protest by opposition members. Rejecting the demand for referring the Bill to a panel, Rijiju said various proposals which are part of the bill have already been suggested and recommended by the Standing Committee of Law and Personnel.

The minister further said that the bill will cleanse the election system and eliminate multiple entries.

He further said the government wanted a full debate on the Bill but could not do so because of the uproar in the House.

The minister said that the Bill, which is gender neutral and has four qualifying dates for entry into electoral roll, is in consonance with the Supreme Court's ruling.

Most of the opposition members demanded that the Bill may be referred to the standing committee for scrutiny and detailed deliberations. Leader of Congress Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury and Supriya Sule of the NCP wondered why this important Bill was being pushed in a tearing hurry by the government.

Many opposition members suggested for garnering public opinion on such an important legislation.

This is no way to pass a legislation



File photo of voters showing their Aadhaar cards as they stand in a queue to cast votes in the Bihar Panchayat election

The Bill seeks to allow electoral registration officers to seek Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters "for the purpose of establishing the identity".

It also seeks to allow the electoral

The Bill seeks to allow electoral registration officers to seek Aadhaar number of people who want to register as voters to 'establish the identity'; will not deny any application for inclusion of name

registration officers to ask for Aadhaar number from "persons already included in the electoral roll for the purposes of authentication of entries in electoral roll, and to identify registration of name of the same person in the electoral roll of more than one constituency or more than once in the same constituency".

At the same time, the amendment Bill makes it clear that "no application for inclusion of name in the electoral roll shall be denied and no entries in the electoral roll shall be deleted for inability of an individual to furnish or intimate Aadhaar number due to such sufficient cause as may be prescribed". Such people will be allowed to furnish other alternative documents as may be prescribed.

According to the Bill circulated to Lok Sabha members ahead of its introduction, various sections of the Representation of the People Act will be amended.

The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states that Section 23 of the RP Act will be amended to allow linking of electoral roll data with the Aadhaar ecosystem "to curb the menace of multiple enrolment of the same person in different places".

Amendment to Section 14 of the RP Act will allow to have four "qualifying" dates for eligible people to register as voters.

As of now, January 1 of every year is the sole qualifying date. **PTI**



Tata Group to lose control over 942-acre tea estate in K'taka?

The Tata Group faces the prospect of losing control over a 942-acre tea estate in Karnataka's Kodagu, as the state government prepares to hand the lush-green plantation to the forest department in accordance with a local court judgement.

Tata Coffee's petition to get the description of the land reversed to 'redeemed sagu' in revenue records from its 2008 entry as 'forest' was dismissed with cost earlier this month by senior civil judge Lokesh MG at Virajpet.

"The land is not under lease anymore. The RTC (records of rights, tenancy & crops) reflects the change, and we will formally hand over the land to the forest department on Monday," Kodagu deputy commissioner BC Sathesha told ET.

In April 2008, the revenue authorities had changed the nature of the tea estate, under Tata Coffee's lease, as "forest land" from the earlier "sagu" land (cultivable land).

Tata Coffee is a subsidiary of Tata Consumer Products and Asia's second largest exporter of instant coffee. The civil court in its December 3 order set aside the company's legal challenge of the government's action in changing the land description and reducing the lease period from 99 years to 99 years. The court told the petitioner that it could approach a revenue court to question the changes.

LEGAL ACTION: Tata Coffee, in an email response to ET, said it was "consulting with its legal advisors on further recommended course of actions and based on this, the company intends to take

further actions to protect its interests". In response to a query as to why it did not approach a revenue court before, the company said the Karnataka High court had earlier given the liberty to it "to approach either the civil court or the appellate authority and based on legal advice, the company had approached the civil court".

The tea estates are spread across West Nemmale, T Shettigeri, Poradu and Hysodluru villages in the lush green Western Ghat forests in South Kodagu (South Coorg). Tata Coffee (Tata Tea, back then) inherited the lease from Consolidated Coffee Ltd, which it acquired in 1990-91. The original leases, however, dated back to 1914 and 1915, and they changed hands through assignment deeds.

Tata Coffee had petitioned the civil court seeking a declaration that the change in revenue records from 'Redeemed Sagu' to 'Reserve Forest' land was illegal.

"I am of the opinion that the suit properties are paisary forest lands. Therefore, the defendant revenue officials have corrected the entries in revenue records and changed into a reserve forest from redeemed sagu," the judgement said, and held the revenue entries as legal. It was illegally changed as 'redeemed sagu' instead of 'paisary forest', the court said, and ordered action against officials involved in making the incorrect entry.

On the government limiting the period of a land lease to 99 years, as per the lease rules of 1940, the judge held that the government reserved the right to do so.

— KR Balasubramanyam (ET)

Cabinet nod to anti-conversion bill

#Belagavi

Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai, who wants to introduce the anti-conversion bill went a step ahead as it was cleared by the State Cabinet on Monday and it is most likely to be tabled in the legislative Assembly on December 21, official sources said. "The cabinet that met today under the leadership of Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai

has cleared the proposed anti-conversion bill, it is likely to be introduced in the assembly tomorrow," official sources aware of the developments said.

There was no official briefing of the cabinet meeting's decisions as the winter session of the state legislature is on. The proposed bill that is being opposed by opposition parties and Christian community leaders is said

to have penal provisions, and may also insist that the persons who wish to convert to another faith file an application before the Deputy Commissioner two months prior.

Also, a person who wishes to convert is likely to lose the religion of his or her origin and facilities or benefits attached with it, including reservations; however, one is likely to receive the benefits entitled to, in the religion

he or she converts to, Home Minister Araga Jnanendra had earlier said.

According to sources, the proposed 'Karnataka Protection of Right to Freedom of Religion Bill, 2021', prohibits conversion from one religion to another by misinterpretation, force, fraud, undue influence, coercion, allurement or marriage.

It is also said to propose for an imprisonment from three to five

years with a fine of Rs 25,000, while for violation of provisions with respect to minors, women, SC/ST will face imprisonment from three to ten years and a fine of not less than Rs 50,000.

The proposed bill is also said to have made a provision for the accused to pay up to Rs five lakh as compensation to those who were made to convert. With regards to cases of mass conversion the bill proposes 3-10 years jail term and a fine of up to Rs one lakh.

—BMB & Agencies



BEST OF DR MAHINDER WATSA

The finest responses of Dr Watsa are being republished in this column as a tribute to him.

1 I am a 21-year-old man. If my partner eats papaya after unprotected sex, will it stop conception?

You are a sexually uneducated man. Please do not buy papaya or any other fruits because none of them will help. Please educate yourself on how to make love, how to wear a condom, and in other matters.

2 My girlfriend hasn't got her period after we had sex. She is 21 years old. We weren't wearing clothes but we didn't have intercourse. I am pretty sure that my penis barely touched her vagina. She has had irregular periods earlier. This time it has been delayed by three months. Is there any chance that she is pregnant?

At last both of you have awakened to the risk of pregnancy. Check with a urine pregnancy kit (available at a chemist). If the result is positive, see a gynecologist immediately. If it is a menstrual problem, the gynecologist can set it right.

3 I am a 31-year-old woman. In 2007, I suddenly lost my sexual desire (I used to masturbate by inserting my finger, and enjoyed it before). I got married, but am unable to get aroused. I tried porn but it does not help either. Have I become permanently frigid and unresponsive?

Please undergo a medical checkup to check if you have a hormonal imbalance. First think of what possible reasons could have led to this. A doctor can help you by prescribing a general tonic or an ayurvedic capsule.

MEET THE SEXPERTS

Use this QR code to send your questions to us



Fast healing

Keeping your skin off any product for a while helps it to regain its purer form

Natural skincare around traditional methods is back in vogue. Skin fasting is also trending, but do you know what it is? Do you need it? For how long should you fast? We got an expert to give us all the details. Read on:

Ritika Jayaswal, CEO and founder Nourish Mantra says: A natural skin cleanser or an all-natural anti-ageing cream: your skin will let you know what to use and when to use it. Like all beauty and natural skincare formulas, skin fasting also depends on the type of skin you have. Understand these pros and cons and choose what you need—fasting or dieting.

What is skin fasting?

Skin fasting means keeping your skin off any product. Skin fasting is not a new but a traditional natural skincare concept that is in the spotlight owing to social media. It gives time to your skin to figure out what it truly needs. But skin fasting may not suit everyone. Even people with normal skin types need to maintain basic skin hygiene with a cleanser and a moisturiser. Beauty experts and social media celebs discuss it regularly.

Go for skin dieting

It is a more promising concept. It does not restrict you from using basic hygiene like cleansing and moisturising. You can stop using other products and still see a difference in your skin. The plus is that you will not face other skincare issues that may arise due to improper hygiene or cleansing and dryness due to lack of moisturisation.

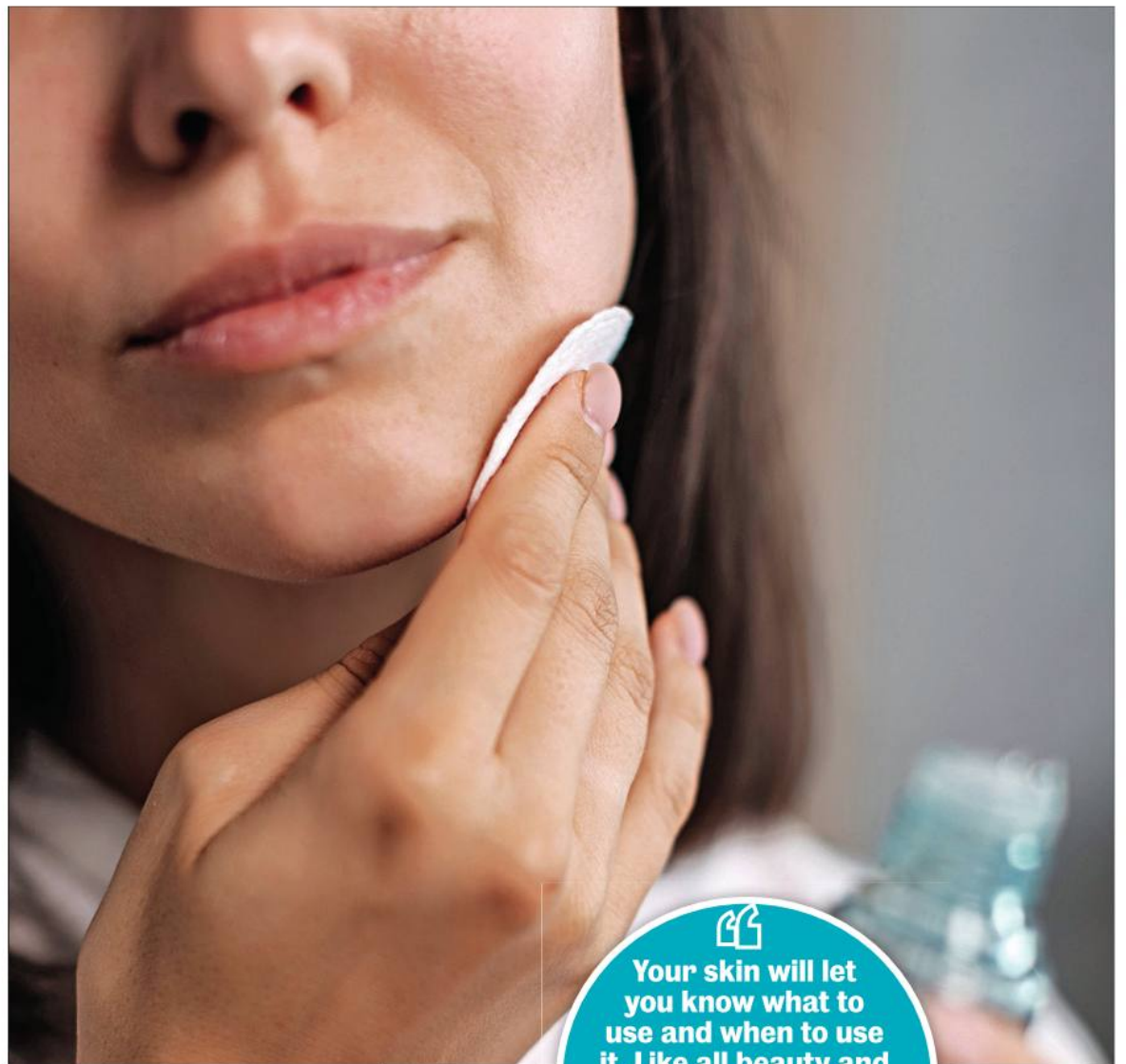
After your skin-dieting is over, you may feel the need to get yourself the best face mask for glowing skin or an all-natural anti-ageing cream. You can also find out if you can survive only on a great cleanser and moisturiser.

Skin dieting routine according to your skin type:

If you frequently encounter dust, wind, sun, rain, and pollution, traditional skin-fasting (using zero products) would lead to a build-up of impurities on your skin that can reach deeper if not cleansed. It can lead to multiple breakouts and dead skin.

Since skin dieting allows you to use essential products your skin needs, you can avoid such issues. What to stop and what to use depends on your skin type, health, outside exposure and how long you have been doing it.

Oily skin: If you regularly fight excess oil and acne, fast your skin



Your skin will let you know what to use and when to use it. Like all beauty and natural skincare formulas, skin fasting also depends on the type of skin you have.

from cosmetics and use only one or two products that keep your skin clean and moisturised. It can just be a natural skin cleanser and moisturiser. After a few weeks, when your skin is relaxed, you will be ready to try out the best serum for acne-prone skin. You can also experience reduced acne when you stop using multiple cosmetics on your skin.

Dry skin: You can use a gentle skin cleanser and moisturizer to keep your skin from drying out completely and avoid flaky and dead skin. Such conditions lead to early skin ageing and a dull appearance. After completing your skin fasting period, you can figure out what your skin needs or doesn't need.

Normal to combination skin:

Your skin also needs to turn away from unwanted substances found in most beauty products. They may harm your skin in the long run. Since you don't have extreme skin types, you can try skin fasting or dieting. It depends on how your skin reacts to it. A

basic mild cleanser is still advised. After a few days, if your skin starts to look dull, you might want to try out the best face mask for glowing skin.

Skin concerns:

If you want to fight skin ageing, don't diet your skin for a long time. You need one week to relax and then find an all-natural anti-ageing cream that suits your skin type and will help tighten your skin, reduce fine lines effectively and even tone it for a more youthful look. It can also be possible that certain cosmetics and skincare products you use are currently affecting your skin's health.

Other than external factors and your skincare routine, many habits might be harming your skin, like your sleeping pattern, food oils, etc. It would help if you kept them in check. You can also refer to their guide to create the perfect natural skincare routine. Experts suggest that after completing skin fasting,

you care for your skin using safer products. When people share their experiences with them, they long to share them with you because sharing helps a lot. Think of them as reviews.

Start slow, follow the 3R formula: Reduce, Relax and Renew

Reduce the number of products gradually, starting with cosmetics and adding serums, creams, oils, etc.

After reaching a minimum number of products, wait for the results, visible instantly or after a week. Do not wait for months.

Accordingly, renew your natural skincare routine. Introduce your skin to safer substances. These can be plant-based skincare products like vegan and natural ones.

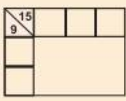
Start with a natural skin cleanser and moisturizer, moving on to the other products tackling your specific skin concerns one by one.

— IANS

$$\sqrt{\frac{1}{0.01}} \times \sqrt{\frac{1}{36}} = ?$$

Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas



for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.

		28	3		14	14		10	16
	5			7				16	
8								8	
10				16				29	
	15				14				
		12			6				26
	10			9				15	
		4			11				6
		23						21	
		23			7			3	
	11			3				13	
8					16				
15					12				

Quick

1	2	3	4	5	6
7				8	
9			10		
11		12		13	
15	16			17	
19					
20					21
22					23

ACROSS

- Garden pavilion (6)
- Male bees (6)
- Floating ice mass (4)
- Salad vegetable (8)
- Mythical monsters (7)
- Following (5)
- Representative (5)
- Surgical pincers? (7)
- Our former PM Dr. Singh (8)
- Fixed looking (4)
- Pertaining to teeth (6)
- Sound of a small bell (6)

DOWN

- Greater in height (6)
- Surrender or relinquish (4)
- Stealing from (7)
- A snake (5)
- Frightful (8)
- Indicate (6)
- One who makes and repairs firearms (8)
- Stinging insects? (7)
- Scratches or scrapes (6)
- Baffle or confound (6)
- Dynasty which ruled the area around Bangalore in the 11th century (5)
- Criminal group (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: B EQUALS O
 PR ABTCM YBR HD EBGG-
 PHCD RB EYBPGD YTIGDG RBB
 SPQSCV.



Linemaro

There's a really foul smell. Let's get out of here!



Mindchow

Everyone wants to live on top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occurs while you're climbing it.



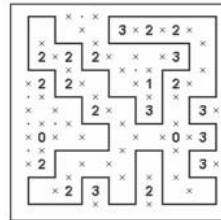
Joke of the day

Parent's leave note: Please excuse ray Friday from school. He has very loose vowels.

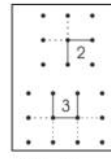
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)



(Fig B)
Not Allowed

How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)

				3	3	2		
				2	1			
2				3	2	1	3	
3	2	1	3					
2				2	2		2	
				0	3	2	2	2
				2	3	1		
				2	2	2		
				2	2	2		

Strikeout

D	O	U	T	E	N	M	O	E	D	A	R	S
U	E	S	B	T	S	P	L	O	E	U	G	C
D	C	W	A	R	D	E	T	O	L	O	E	G
A	C	O	E	S	E	O	R	T	D	E	M	A
M	A	L	A	B	U	I	O	S	M	T	E	L
R	P	F	L	W	B	E	S	I	A	D	E	A
C	N	A	E	O	R	I	C	A	R	O	T	S
U	E	R	L	U	C	R	N	D	E	S	E	M
I	T	G	D	F	E	L	E	Y	C	D	E	N
L	O	C	Y	G	L	I	A	A	Y	O	C	I
D	E	E	G	U	R	A	T	A	R	N	Y	A
C	R	O	R	U	N	T	S	C	E	Y	R	E

This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				X
9				

ACROSS

- Claps; 6 Lunar;
- To lot; 8 Ref ox;
- Ay tax

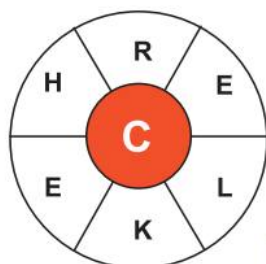
DOWN

- Flu as; 2 Col to;
- A rant; 4 Exalt;
- Ox Pry

Mensapuzzle

Which letter replaces the question mark and completes the puzzle?

D	G	D
H		L
	Y	
R		L
S	K	?



Bull's eye

How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

06 Average; 07 Good; 09 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

7			5			3	8	
		8	4	6	2			1
		2			8			
	5					1		7
	3						2	
4		1					5	
			9			3		
2			8	4	3	9		
9	4			1				5

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy

= 20

Medium

= 12

Hard

= 37

Hocusfocus



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bottom of shirt is different; 2. Branch is shorter; 3. Book cover is different; 4. Hair is longer; 5. Binoculars are longer; 6. Cloud is missing.

Riddler

Figure out what the animals are! (for example, "To run away or escape" could be a "flea")

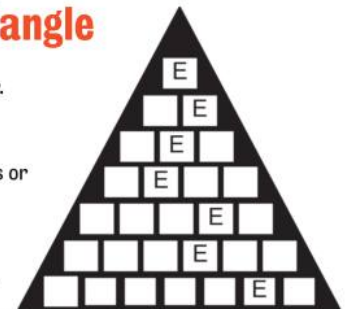
- A strong body tissue
- Government head of a town/city
- To sound low, husky, or grating
- Relating to a group of singers
- Stealin

Alpha triangle

- Second vowel
- South East, abbr.
- Solidify
- Pushed data
- Map feature
- Buy some shares or property
- Indigenes

Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made

at each step answering to the clue given.



COMICS

Redeye by Mel Casson



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil



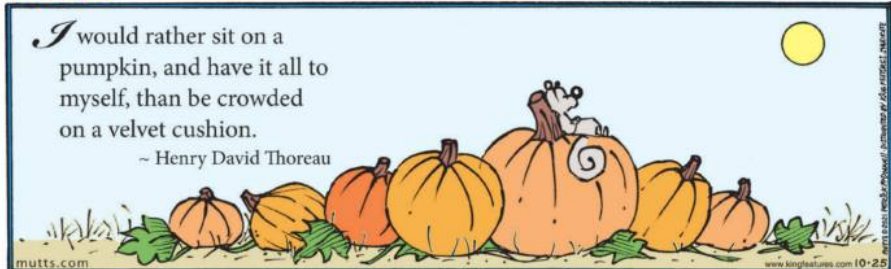
Hart of the city



Crankshaft



Mutts



WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 - Apr 20

Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your destiny is likely to be with you. You may be more energetic and focused on your work. Your hard work may pay you in terms of success. Your subordinates may help you. You are likely to go on a short work-related trip. Some good news may come from your sibling. You may plan to renovate your house or office, where your creativity will be tested.



Leo Jul 24 - Aug 23

Today, you may meet some influential person, who may help you in the progress of your work. Your network will be stronger with their help. You may prepare yourself to implement new ideas into your work or business. You will plan to invest more capital in your business, which may give you financial gains in the near future. In terms of domestic life, you will be busy with family get-togethers and social events.



Sagittarius Nov 23 - Dec 22

Today, you may plan to renovate your house. You may buy some artefacts or creative stuff, which will improve your social status. You may also invest in properties and other assets. You are likely to enjoy romantic moments with your spouse, which will increase your emotional relationship. Singles may find a soulmate. Love birds may make some important decisions in terms of marriage.



Taurus Apr 21 - May 20

Today, you may be able to control your expenditure on worthless things, which may increase your savings. You may get more creative today; you may use your creativity in your office or at home, which may enhance your social status. Love birds may get some support from their family members and friends regarding marriage.



Virgo Aug 24 - Sep 23

Today, your mother's health may be good. You may enjoy your work and may get rewarded for the hard work. Your social status may improve now. Overworking your mind may make you tired. Due to workload, you may not be able to attend a family event.



Capricorn Dec 23 - Jan 20

Today, you may feel happy. Chronic health issues related to family members can get cured. You will be able to recover your stuck money, which may increase liquidity in the business. People who are in a job may get some incentives, which will improve your financial health. Job seekers may get a job with the help of any relative or friend's reference. Students may seek help from their friends for academics.



Gemini May 21 - Jun 21

Messy situations are now under control. You may find peace of mind. You may be able to make a proper balance in expenditure and earnings, which may increase your savings. You are advised to avoid too much travelling or overworking; it may affect your health. Students may start planning for their higher studies. Love birds may enjoy their happy moments.



Libra Sep 24 - Oct 22

Today, you may be satisfied at work. You may plan a short work-related trip. You may also visit some religious sites to maintain your inner peace. Your gurus may show you the right path, which may give you clarity regarding your goals.



Aquarius Jan 21 - Feb 19

Today is important for domestic life. You may be busy with kids. You may hear some good news in terms of kids' education. You may buy some creative stuff for home or office to maintain your social status. You are advised to be wise while buying any household stuff or jewellery.



Cancer Jun 22 - July 23

Today, you may face health issues, which may make you impatient. You are advised to control your short temper. You may spend your hard-earned money buying worthless stuff, which may affect your savings. Love birds are advised to avoid discussions on worthless topics, otherwise the relationship might fail.



Scorpio Oct 23 - Nov 22

Today, you may feel dull; it is advised to keep your mind cool. It's the golden rule for you to think twice before acting. You may travel to recover your money, otherwise you may lose it. You are advised to avoid going on an adventure tour. Students are advised to opt for in-depth study to get success.



Pisces Feb 20 - Mar 20

Today, you may be impatient, which may reflect into your way of working. There might be some silly mistakes, which may stop you from completing your task. Investments in fixed assets are advised to be postponed for some days. With the elders' blessings, you may overcome the messy situation. In the evening, you may become focused on your work.



KIDZONE



Sanjana V, 5 Years, DRDO KG School



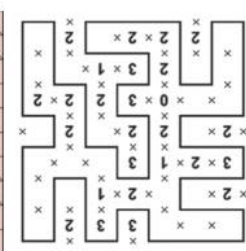
Gokul K M, 14 Years, Indiranagar Cambridge School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

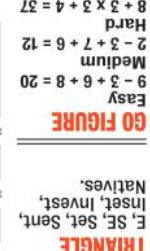
SOLUTIONS



KAKURO



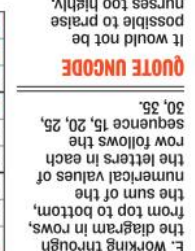
LOOP



ALPHA TRIANGLE



SUDOKU



MENSA PUZZLE



QUICK



STRIKE OUT



BULL'S EYE



SOLVE IN 1M

It took 25 days to create THE gown

We catch up with designer Saisha Shinde, who tells us more about Harnaaz Sandhu and her gown that dazzled the Miss Universe event

Sneha Biswas
 mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com
 TWEETS @BangaloreMirror



2021 couldn't have a better end than Harnaaz Sandhu making India proud as she brought home the Miss Universe crown. The historic win came 21 long years after Lara Dutta's win in 2000. For her moment of crowning glory, Harnaaz dazzled in a gorgeous gown curated by celebrity designer Saisha Shinde, who has worked with beauty queens like Aishwarya Rai Bachchan and Sushmita Sen and even dressed Bollywood royalty, including Kareena Kapoor Khan. Apart from the professional high, what made the big win even more special on a personal level was that Saisha came out as transgender early this year. She is not only setting the bar high for the fashion world but is also making the LGBTQIA+ community proud. In an exclusive conversation with Saisha, we found out what went behind creating the masterpiece for Miss Universe 2021.

How would you describe Harnaaz Sandhu as a person? How was it working for her?

When I met Harnaaz for the first time, I realised this girl is extremely centred and most importantly so well behaved! She had such respect for not just me but also my team, the 'thank you' was not limited only to me but also my karigars and Masterji. She is always with a smile, I think that speaks volumes about how she is as a person. Every time she would leave my office I would pray, "God, please let this girl win Miss Universe!"

Describe the dress of Harnaaz that everyone is talking about...

For Harnaaz's gown, we took inspiration from the geometric and symmetric pattern of the phulkari motif which is synonymous with Punjab. I modernised it by making it abstract and simultaneously we had vertical lines which fanned out making her look even taller. Finally, the whole look came together with the strings of Swarovski chains cascading down in the front, giving it a waterfall effect. The gown took about 25 days to finish with intricate and extremely delicate hand embroidery made of bugle beads, Swarovski crystals and chains.

Your best memory with Harnaaz? Anything about her you liked the most?

I can never forget when we first met for fittings. She had mentioned to me that she always dreamt of this moment, her discussing the final gown with me in my office. I was touched by how dedicated her dream was.



ED questions Aish for nearly 5 hours in Panama Papers case

The Enforcement Directorate on Monday questioned Bollywood actor Aishwarya Rai Bachchan nearly 5 hours in Panama Papers leak case.

She deposed before the investigators following the summons issued by the federal agency against her to join the probe.

The ED recorded the statement of the 48-year-old actress in the case over allegations of stashing wealth abroad under the Foreign Exchange Management Act, 1999. The actress had earlier submitted records on the foreign payments under investigation.

The ED had issued notices to the Bachchan family asking them to explain their foreign remittances since 2004 under the Liberalised Remittance Scheme (LRS) of

the Reserve Bank of India.

Sources in the agency informed that Bachchan was summoned earlier too but she could not appear and sought next dates at least two times.

The Panama Papers pertain to leaked documents that point towards fraud and tax evasion by many individuals and corporate entities across the world. Aishwarya Rai Bachchan's name featured in the list of 500 Indians named in the massive leak of 11.5 million tax documents.

"The Panama Papers" case is an investigation spanning millions of documents stolen and leaked to the media in 2016, which involves allegations that the world's rich and powerful set up offshore accounts or shell companies to avoid taxes.

It's a date?

Rumoured couple Rashmika Mandanna and Vijay Deverakonda were recently spotted and snapped by the paparazzi in Mumbai as they stepped out for a hush-hush dinner date.

The lovebirds, who are in the city for their respective Hindi releases, were seen exiting a restaurant in the city and zooming off in the same car. A fan club shared a picture of the actors who were clicked outside the restaurant. While Vijay looked dapper as ever in an animal-printed shirt and black pants, Rashmika looked stunning as ever in her all-black outfit.

Vijay Deverakonda will be seen in Karan Johar's pan-India film 'Liger' co-starring Ananya Panday in the lead role. The makers of the film have also roped in boxing legend Mike Tyson for a special cameo in the movie. The film is slated to hit the theatres on August 25, 2022.

Rashmika, on the other hand, was recently seen in 'Pushpa' co-starring Allu



Arjun in the lead role. The film has been receiving positive reviews from fans and critics alike. It has also been doing some record-breaking business at the box office.

The actress will be making her big Bollywood debut with 'Mission Majnu' with Sidharth Malhotra in the lead role. Rashmika also has Vikas Bahl's 'Goodbye' where she will be seen sharing the screen space with Amitabh Bachchan, Neena Gupta and Pavai Gulati in lead roles.

—ETimes

'Have nothing to do with porn, episode was just a witch hunt'

Businessman Raj Kundra, who was arrested in a pornography case earlier this year and granted bail, on Monday claimed he has never been involved in the production and distribution of pornographic content in his life. In a statement issued on a social media platform, Kundra, who is married to actor Shilpa Shetty, said the entire episode was nothing but a "witch hunt". The businessman also said has already been pronounced "guilty" by the media, and he wishes his privacy is not intruded anymore with this continued "media trial".

The Supreme Court last week granted protection

from arrest to Kundra in connection with an FIR registered against him for allegedly distributing pornographic videos.

On Monday, Kundra stated that, "After much contemplation, considering there are many misleading and irresponsible statements and articles floating around and my silence has been misconstrued for weakness. I would like to start by stating that I have NEVER been involved in the production and distribution of "pornography" EVER in my life."

"This whole episode has been nothing but a witch hunt. The matter is subjudice so I can not elucidate,

but I am ready to face trial and have full faith in the judiciary, where the truth will prevail."

Kundra said, unfortunately he has already been pronounced "guilty" by the media and that his family and he have been subjected to a lot of pain (continuously), violating his human and constitutional rights at different levels. "The trolling, negativity and toxic public perception has been very debilitating. To set the record straight, I do not hide my face in shame, but wish that my privacy is not intruded anymore with this continued MEDIA TRIAL," he said.

—PTI

